

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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Date Issued: July 19, 2012
Time: 9:35 a.m.

**2012 Kuskokwim Bay Salmon Fishery News Release 6
Districts 4 and 5 to Open to Commercial Salmon Fishing**

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at Bethel for commercial salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim Area.

District 4, Quinhagak

District 4, Quinhagak, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 23, 2012.

Preliminary harvest reports from the July 18 opening indicate a harvest of 197 Chinook; 909 sockeye; 5,721 chum; and 14 coho salmon from 94 permits. The sockeye salmon harvests and catch rates have been below average for the last five periods. Chum salmon harvest and catch rate were above average the last two periods, but escapements at the Kanektok weir are the lowest since that project started operating. Therefore, the Department has decided to wait until Monday for the next commercial period.

The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for the upcoming commercial period. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

In District 4 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

District 5, Goodnews Bay

District 5, Goodnews Bay, will open to commercial salmon fishing for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, July 20, 2012 and for 12 hours from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday, July 23, 2012.

Preliminary harvest reports from the July 18 opening indicate a harvest of 58 Chinook; 3,457 sockeye; 2,420 chum; and 2 coho salmon from 34 permits. The harvests and harvest rates of sockeye and chum salmon were above average. The harvests and harvest rates of Chinook and coho salmon were average. The local processor anticipates adequate processing capacity for these upcoming commercial periods. Fishermen should maintain contact with the buyer to ensure there is adequate processing capacity for their catch.

In District 5 subsistence salmon fishing will be closed 8 hours before, during, and 4 hours after each commercial fishing period.

Fishermen are reminded that they may retain any portion of their catch for personal or subsistence use. Fish retained for personal or subsistence use from a commercial fishery must be reported and recorded in the space provided on an ADF&G fish ticket. Fishermen are also reminded that gillnet gear may not be operated in a manner that obstructs more than one half the width of any waterway. In the intertidal zone this restriction applies at all tide stages. Additionally, gear is restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size and 50 fathoms in length in a single shackle.

The Department will be closely monitoring commercial fishing periods to assess fishery performance and anticipates announcing additional commercial fishing periods as warranted. Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office, on the state web site (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>), and local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

Commercial fishermen are encouraged to consult Fish and Game regulations prior to beginning commercial fishing operations.

For additional information or questions regarding Districts 4 and 5 and Kuskokwim Area fisheries, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in the Bethel at 543-2433 or toll free at 855-933-2433.

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